

REMARKS

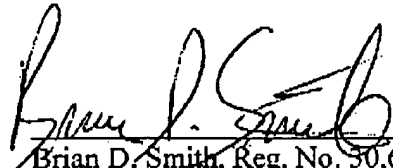
Applicant submits that new claims 23-38 remedy the 112 rejections of the Office Action mailed May 21, 2003 and distinguish over the prior art cited in the office action and the other art of record. The examiner will appreciate that the claims now recite the fact that the scraping edge is "protruding" from the housing and that the "scraping edge has a straight scraping edge portion and an arcuate scraping edge portion". None of the prior art is seen to disclose or suggest such a device. The device of Lyons, for example, while having a straight edge, cannot be considered to have a straight "scraping" edge portion as now claimed because the straight edge of the Lyons device cannot contact the protective coating of a lottery ticket to scrape the coating, i.e. if the device is used in its intended fashion. Indeed, if the coating were located in the center of the ticket, it is doubtful that the straight edge of Lyons could contact the coating no matter how the Lyons device is held.

Pages 9 and 10 of the specification have also been amended as suggested by the examiner and as shown on the attached replacement sheets. Figure 10 has also been corrected as also suggested by the examiner and as shown in the attached drawing sheet therefor.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration are requested and allowance is solicited at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

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5 efficiency of scratcher 100. As the scraping blade 130 of lottery ticket scratcher 100 is used, more of fibers 132 are continually exposed at the surface thereof, as some of fibers 132 are worn away. Thus, due to a maintained exposure of fibers 132, scraping blade 130 maintains a substantially efficient, possibly even permanently sharp, edge 134.

10 As is clear from drawings, housing 110, convex gripping area 120, and scraping blade 130 are generally thin in nature, and have opposing symmetrical sides and an edge on the blade 130. The scraping blade 130 is mounted on an edge of the housing 110. The convex gripping area 120 protrudes above the surface of the housing 110. Thus, the lottery ticket scratcher 100 has tremendous advantages.

15 Housing 110 preferably has a generally triangular shape. Preferably, the triangular shape includes an obtuse angle, that an angle greater than 90 degrees, as gripping angle 142. Convex gripping area 120 is adjacent to gripping angle 142. Convex gripping area 120 may include a series of flexible flutes 122 or raised ridges, which assist the gripping of the scratcher 100. While assisting the grip, flutes 122 also add
20 comfort to the grip.

Thanks to the triangular shape and gripping angle 142, and the blade ¹³⁰~~132~~ has flat protruded scraping side 144 and a small arcuate scraping surface 146. In other words, the blade ¹³⁰~~132~~ extends from the straight and flat, or long and
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large scraping surface 144 opposite gripping angle 142. Then
scraping edge or blade ¹³⁰~~132~~ extends around a vertex oppositely
disposed from housing aperture 140, from the protruded
scraping side 144, which is opposite gripping angle 142, into
the small arcuate scraping surface 146.

With the optional housing aperture 140, the lottery
ticket scratcher 100 is easily connected to a holding device
such as a key ring (not shown). Thus, the lottery ticket
scratcher 100 provides both portability and great utility, as
a scratcher.

Referring now to Figure 7 and Figure 8, the second and
most preferred embodiment of the lottery ticket scratcher 100
of this invention has concave gripping area 150. This concave
gripping area 150 is a preferred embodiment, due to the ease
of manufacture and greater gripping efficiency.

In Figure 8 and Figure 9, protruded scraping side 144
is replaced with an elongated scraping edge 160 which extends
from about the housing aperture 140 to arcuate scraping
side 146. Elongated scraping edge 160 permits more efficient
scraping of larger areas.

In Figure 10, a fourth embodiment of the lottery ticket
scratcher 100 with a rounded grip 170. Rounded grip 170 has
edge ribs 172 mounted in a substantially rounded housing 174.
From rounded housing 174 extends arcuate scraping edge 176,
having substantially symmetrical flat scraping edges 178